
Sec. 9.62. Issuance of animal license/identification tags and vaccination certificates.

9.62.A. All owners of dogs and cats, other than community cats meeting the definition in section 9.1 of this chapter, in Martin County shall obtain a Martin County license/identification tag for each dog and cat they own, keep, harbor, maintain, or have in custody, in accordance with the latest date referred to in the following timetable:

1. When the dog or cat reaches the age of six months; or
2. Within 30 calendar days of acquiring the dog or cat that is at least six months old; or
3. Within 30 calendar days of arrival in Martin County as a new resident with a dog or cat that is at least six months old.

License/identification tags must be securely fastened about the animal's neck by a collar or other device allowing the tags to be clearly visible at all times. Failure by an owner to ensure that a required tag remains fastened will result in the animal being labeled as a stray and the owner being in violation of Section 9.90 of this chapter, which may result in the issuance of a citation and impoundment of such animal. Dogs and cats, other than community cats meeting the definition in Section 9.1 of this chapter, housed in a secure enclosure may be exempt from wearing the required tag while kept in the enclosure, provided the tag is securely fastened to a collar/harness and that device is attached to the enclosure housing the dog or cat. The above licensing requirements do not apply to community cats meeting the definition of Section 9.1 of this chapter.

9.62.B. Licensed veterinarians shall issue a vaccination certificate pursuant to subsection 9.61.B of this article and, if applicable, a sterilization certificate **and report of the animal's microchip number**, to each owner for each animal vaccinated **and sterilized**. Such a certificate must accompany each application for a Martin County license/identification tag unless the veterinarian issues the license/identification tag on the Animal Services Unit's behalf, in which case only the rabies certificate must be submitted to the Animal Services Unit. The Animal Services Unit may rely upon such certificates in order to ensure that persons who have obtained such certificate also obtain a license/identification tag.

9.62.C. Each license/identification tag registration is valid for one year from the date of issuance or date of the rabies vaccination, whichever is earlier, and must be renewed before or at the expiration of such period of time. Any owner who fails to renew a required tag within the designated period shall at a minimum pay a late fee, as established by resolution of the board.

9.62.D. Owners of dogs and cats shall purchase such license/identification tags directly from participating veterinarian's office; the County's designated impoundment facility; or at any branch office of the Martin County Tax Collector. The fees required for license/identification tags are established by resolution of the board. Required

fees are based upon whether a dog or cat is micro-chipped, unsterilized or sterilized, and whether a dog is classified as "dangerous" under the provisions of this chapter and state law.

9.62.E. Every licensed veterinarian, acting on behalf of himself/herself or a veterinary hospital or other facility with which he/she is associated, may participate in the licensing/identification program, either by issuing a license/identification tag with each rabies certificate issued or by issuing a license/identification tag for an animal upon determining that the animal has been vaccinated elsewhere, but is not currently licensed in Martin County. The County shall pay veterinarians and the County's designated impoundment facility, respectively, the sum to be determined by resolution of the board for each license/identification tag sold by these parties.

9.62.F. Any person who owns, harbors or maintains five or more dogs, cats, or any combination thereof shall license all such animals at the same time; provided however, upon submission to the Animal Services Unit of a written plan specifying in detail the steps the owner will take with respect to the animals in the event of a man-made or natural disaster, payment shall be waived for all animals over and above the first five animals; and provided further that any unsterilized animals shall be among the five animals for which licenses are obtained and paid. The written plan will enable the Animal Services Unit to be better prepared in the event of any man-made or natural disaster.

9.62.G. The licensing provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. Any owner who is a nonresident or temporary resident, as defined in this chapter, provided that the owner's cat(s) and/or dog(s) has been vaccinated for rabies in some other jurisdiction, which vaccination remains valid under the laws of Martin County for the duration of the anticipated stay within this County (although all other requirements, including restraint obligations, shall apply); or
2. The ownership, care, custody, or maintenance, in the ordinary course of business, of any cat or dog by a research or veterinary medical facility, government-operated or authorized animal shelter, private nonprofit organization as defined in Section 9.1 of this chapter, or commercial pet shop, provided that such shelter, facility or shop is operating in accordance with all applicable occupational licensing and zoning requirements, and all applicable state and federal regulations.
3. Community cats meeting the definition of Section 9.1 of this chapter.

9.62.H. No license/identification tag may be transferable from one cat or dog to another, or from one owner to another. Upon transfer of a previously licensed cat or dog to a new owner, such owner shall have a period of 30 calendar days within which to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 628, pt. 1, 2-11-2003; Ord. No. 710, pt. 2, 8-1-2006; Ord. No. 1041, pt. 1B, 11-28-2017; Ord. No. 1102, pt. 1, 6-4-2019; Ord. No. 1181, § 1, 6-7-2022)
